

BEST AVAILABLE COPYDocket No. 742425-30
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Page 2IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 and add new claims 5-9 as follow.

1. (Currently Amended) A side structure of a vehicle comprising:

a slide door opening area formed at the side wall of the vehicle,
a slide door slidable to freely open and close the slide door opening area,
a window opening area formed at the upper portion of the slide door,
a window pane elevated and lowered to freely open and close the window

opening area, wherein,

a rear periphery of the slide door opening area comprises a first rear periphery formed substantially corresponding in position to an area where the window opening area is arranged and a second rear periphery formed below the first rear periphery with respect to the vehicular vertical direction,

said first rear periphery extends substantially vertically and extends upward from a position that corresponds in height to the upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, said first rear periphery being located behind said second rear periphery with respect to the vehicle's longitudinal direction,

the slide door is slidable to a fully opened position where a front periphery of the window opening area substantially corresponds in position to said second rear periphery of the slide door opening area,

the longitudinal length between said front periphery of the window opening area and said first rear periphery is greater than the longitudinal length between said front periphery of the window opening area and said second rear periphery in a fully-opened condition of the slide door, and

a lower portion of a rear periphery of the slide door substantially corresponding in position to said second rear periphery is located in front of an upper portion

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substantially corresponding in position to said first rear periphery in a fully-closed condition of the slide door.

2. (Original) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 1, further comprising a center rail located in vertically intermediate position of the side wall of the vehicle and extending between said second rear periphery and a rear end of the vehicle, and a center roller provided at the slide door and slidably supported by the center rail.

3. (Currently Amended) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 1, further comprising,

a weather-strip attached along the rear periphery of the slide door opening area, wherein,

the slide door opening area includes in the rear periphery a connecting portion connected to said first rear periphery at one end and connected to said second rear periphery at the other end,

said connecting portion is formed to curve down and forward from the position that corresponds in height to the upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, toward said second rear periphery, and wherein the weather-strip is disposed so as to extend slantingly downward along the shape of said connecting portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 2, further comprising,

a weather-strip attached along the rear periphery of the slide door opening area, wherein,

the slide door opening area includes in the rear periphery a connecting portion connected to the said rear periphery at one end and is connected to said second rear periphery at the other end,

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said connecting portion is formed to curve down and forward from a the position that corresponds in height to said upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, toward a position that corresponds in height to the location of the center rail, and wherein the weather-strip is disposed so as to extend slantingly downward along the shape of said connecting portion.

5. (New) A side structure of a vehicle comprising:

a slide door opening area formed at the side wall of the vehicle,

a slide door slidable to freely open and close the slide door opening area,

a window opening area formed at the upper portion of the slide door,

a window pane elevated and lowered to freely open and close the window opening area, wherein,

a rear periphery of the slide door opening area comprises a first rear periphery formed substantially corresponding in position to an area where the window opening area is arranged, which is located above an upper edge of said window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, and a second rear periphery formed below the first rear periphery with respect to the vehicular vertical direction,

said first rear periphery extends substantially vertically and extends upward from a position that corresponds in height to the upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, said first rear periphery being located behind said second rear periphery with respect to the vehicle's longitudinal direction,

the slide door is slidable to a fully opened position where a front periphery of the window opening area substantially corresponds in position to said second rear periphery of the slide door opening area,

the longitudinal length between said front periphery of the window opening area and said first rear periphery is greater than the longitudinal length between said front

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periphery of the window opening area and said second rear periphery in a fully-opened condition of the slide door, and

a weather-strip is attached along the rear periphery of the slide door opening area,

wherein the slide door opening area includes in the rear periphery a connecting portion connected to said first rear periphery at one end and connected to said second rear periphery at the other end,

said connecting portion is formed to curve down and forward from a position that corresponds in height to the upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, toward said second rear periphery, and

said weather-strip is disposed so as to extend slantingly downward along the shape of said connecting portion.

6. (New) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 5, further comprising a center rail located in vertically intermediate position of the side wall of the vehicle and extending between said second rear periphery and a rear end of the vehicle, and a center roller provided at the slide door and slidably supported by the center rail.

7. (New) A side structure of a vehicle comprising:

a slide door opening area formed at the side wall of the vehicle,

a slide door slidable to freely open and close the slide door opening area,

a window opening area formed at the upper portion of the slide door,

a window pane elevated and lowered to freely open and close the window opening area, wherein,

a rear periphery of the slide door opening area comprises a first rear periphery formed substantially corresponding in position to an area where the window opening area is arranged and a second rear periphery formed below the first rear periphery with respect to the

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vehicular vertical direction,

said first rear periphery extends substantially vertically and extends upward from a position that corresponds in height to the upper periphery of the window pane in the state where the window pane is lowered down to the maximum, said first rear periphery being located behind said second rear periphery with respect to the vehicle's longitudinal direction,

the slide door is slidable to a fully opened position where a front periphery of the window opening area substantially corresponds in position to said second rear periphery of the slide door opening area,

the longitudinal length between said front periphery of the window opening area and said first rear periphery is greater than the longitudinal length between said front periphery of the window opening area and said second rear periphery in a fully-opened condition of the slide door, and

a rear periphery of said slide door substantially comprises an upper portion substantially corresponding in position to said first rear periphery and a lower portion substantially corresponding in position to said second rear periphery, the rear periphery of said slide door being substantially inclined forward at a predetermined angle relative to a vertical line of the vehicle such that the lower portion of the rear periphery of said slide door is located in front of the upper portion of the rear periphery of said slide door.

8. (New) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 7, wherein said rear periphery of the slide door comprising said upper portion and said lower portion is substantially formed in a straight line so as to be inclined.

9. (New) A side structure of a vehicle claimed in claim 7, further comprising a center rail located in vertically intermediate position of the side wall of the vehicle and extending between said second rear periphery and a rear end of the vehicle, and a center roller provided at the slide door and slidably supported by the center rail.

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